

Table 34. Persons 65 Years Old and Over—Characteristics by Sex: 1990 to 2009

[As of March, except as noted (29.6 represents 29,600,000). Covers civilian noninstitutional population. Excludes members of Armed Forces except those living off post or with their families on post. Data for 1990 are based on 1980 census population controls; 2000 data based on 1990 census population controls; beginning 2005, data based on 2000 census population controls and an expanded sample of households. Based on Current Population Survey. See text, this section and Appendix III]

Characteristic	Total				Male				Female			
	1990	2000	2005	2009	1990	2000	2005	2009	1990	2000	2005	2009
Total (million)	29.6	32.6	35.2	37.8	12.3	13.9	15.1	16.3	17.2	18.7	20.0	21.5
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION												
Marital status:												
Never married	4.6	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.9	3.6	3.9	4.0
Married	56.1	57.2	57.7	57.2	76.5	75.2	74.9	74.4	41.4	43.8	44.7	44.1
Spouse present	54.1	54.6	54.8	54.8	74.2	72.6	71.7	72.0	39.7	41.3	42.0	41.8
Spouse absent	2.0	2.6	2.9	2.3	2.3	2.6	3.2	2.4	1.7	2.5	2.7	2.3
Widowed	34.2	32.1	30.3	29.0	14.2	14.4	13.7	12.9	48.6	45.3	42.9	41.3
Divorced	5.0	6.7	7.9	9.6	5.0	6.1	7.0	8.3	5.1	7.2	8.5	10.7
Educational attainment:												
Less than ninth grade	28.5	16.7	13.4	10.7	30.0	17.8	13.2	10.4	27.5	15.9	13.5	10.9
Completed 9th to 12th grade, but no high school diploma	¹ 16.1	13.8	12.7	11.0	¹ 15.7	12.7	11.9	10.0	¹ 16.4	14.7	13.3	11.7
High school graduate	² 32.9	35.9	36.3	36.5	² 29.0	30.4	31.6	32.0	² 35.6	39.9	39.9	39.9
Some college or associate's degree	³ 10.9	18.0	18.7	20.2	³ 10.8	17.8	18.4	19.4	³ 11.0	18.2	19.0	20.8
Bachelor's or advanced degree	⁴ 11.6	15.6	18.9	21.7	⁴ 14.5	21.4	24.9	28.2	⁴ 9.5	11.4	14.3	16.8
Labor force participation: ⁵												
Employed	11.5	12.4	14.5	16.1	15.9	16.9	19.1	20.5	8.4	9.1	11.1	12.8
Unemployed	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.8
Not in labor force	88.1	87.2	84.9	82.8	83.6	82.5	80.2	78.1	91.3	90.6	88.5	86.4
Percent below poverty level ⁶	11.4	9.7	9.8	(NA)	7.8	6.9	7.0	(NA)	13.9	11.8	11.9	(NA)

¹ Represents those who completed 1 to 3 years of high school. ² Represents those who completed 4 years of high school. ³ Represents those who completed 1 to 3 years of college. ⁴ Represents those who completed 4 years of college or more. ⁵ Annual averages of monthly figures. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment and Earnings*, January issues. See footnote 2, Table 584. ⁶ Poverty status based on income in preceding year.
Source: Except as noted, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, *The Older Population in the United States: March 2002*, P20-546, 2003, and earlier reports; "Educational Attainment," <<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>>; "Families and Living Arrangements," <<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>>; and "Detailed Poverty Tabulations from the CPS," <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/pov/toc.htm>>.

Table 35. Persons 65 Years and Over—Living Arrangements and Disability Status: 2008

[In thousands (38,812 represents 38,812,000), except as indicated. The American Community Survey universe includes the household population and the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability; see text, this section and Appendix III]

Relationship by household type	Number	Percent distribution	Type of disability	65 to 75 years old and over		
				Total	74 years old	75 years over
Total	38,812	100.0	Persons with any disability	14,180	5,278	8,902
In households	36,899	95.1	With a hearing disability	5,854	1,867	3,987
In family households	25,260	65.1	With a vision disability	2,847	919	1,928
Householder	12,523	32.3	With a cognitive disability	3,661	1,116	2,545
Spouse	8,962	23.1	With an ambulatory disability	9,196	3,324	5,871
Parent	2,193	5.7	With a self-care disability	3,419	969	2,450
Other relatives	1,424	3.7	With an independent living disability	6,384	1,722	4,662
Nonrelatives	158	0.4				
In nonfamily households	11,639	30.0				
Householder	11,144	28.7				
Living alone	10,632	27.4				
Not living alone	513	1.3				
Nonrelatives	495	1.3				
In group quarters	1,913	4.9				

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey, B09017, "Relationship by Household Type (Including Living Alone) for the Population 65 Years and Over;" B18101, "Sex by Age by Disability Status;" B18102, "Sex by Age by Hearing Difficulty;" B18103, "Sex by Age by Vision Difficulty;" B18104, "Sex by Age by Cognitive Difficulty;" B18105, "Sex by Age by Ambulatory Difficulty;" B18106, "Sex by Age by Self-Care Difficulty;" B18107, "Sex by Age by Independent Living Difficulty;" <<http://factfinder.census.gov/>>, accessed October 2009.